

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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UNCLAS STRASBOURG 66

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TAGS: PINT. FR.
SUBJECT: FIRST ROUND OF THE MUNICIPAL ELECTIONS IN STRASBOURG
CONSULAR DISTRICT

REF: A) STRASBOURG 63 B) STRASBOURG 65

SUMMARY - THE FIRST ROUND OF THE MUNICIPAL ELECTIONS IN THE STRASBOURG CONSULAR DISTRICT WENT FAIRLY MUCH AS EXPECTED: THERE WAS AN UNMISTAKABLE GAIN BY THE LEFT, ALTHOUGH NOT AS STRONG AS ORIGINALLY BELIEVED, A STRONG SHOWING PARTICULARLY IN ALSACE BY THE ECOLOGISTS, HIGH PARTICIPATION BY VOTERS AND FINALLY FAILURE BY THE LEFT TO TAKE ANY MAJOR CITY FROM THE MAJORITY EXCEPT SCHILTIGHEIM, WHERE THE UNION DE LA GAUCHE, DEFEATED THE MAJORITY LIST LED BY RPR DEPUTY JEAN-CLAUDE BURCKEL. END SUMMARY.

ALSACE - IN STRASBOURG THE PFLIMLIN LIST WAS REELECTED BY A MAJORITY OF 52.61% AS COMPARED TO 61.31% IN 1971. THIS WAS FOLLOWED BY THE UNION DE LA GAUCHE WITH 28.09%, AND BY THE ECOLOGY LIST WITH A SURPRISING 10.46% AND FINALLY BY AN EXTREME LEFT LIST WITH 4.96% AND A SMALL MUNICIPAL LIST WITH 3.87%. IT IS TO BE NOTED THAT THE PFLIMLIN LIST, OF WHICH MINISTER ANDRE BORD IS A MEMBER, ALSO CONTAINED ELEMENTS OF A REFORM GROUP WHICH IN 1971 PULLED 18.91% OF THE VOTES. THE TWO GROUPS WHICH IN 1971 POLLED OVER 80% OF THE VOTES TOOK ONLY 52% THIS TIME. THE
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LEFT HOWEVER FAILED TO INCREASE ITS SHARE OF THE VOTES AS MUCH AS WAS EXPECTED. IT WAS UP ONLY ABOUT 9% OVER THE 1971 RESULTS. THE LEFT UNDOUBTEDLY LOST MANY OF ITS VOTES TO THE ECOLOGY GROUP AND THE EXTREME LEFT.

IN SCHILTIGHEIM THE OUTSIDER, RPR DEPUTY JEAN-CLAUDE BURCKEL, LOST A CLOSE RACE TO ALFRED MULLER A LONG TIME RESIDENT OF THE

CITY THUS GIVING THAT TOWN A SOCIALIST-COMMUNIST ADMINISTRATION.

IN MULHOUSE, WHERE THERE WAS FIVE LISTS, THE LEFT, DIVIDED AMONG THE UNION DE LA GAUCHE, THE ECOLOGISTS AND A LEFTIST-RADICAL-SOCIALIST GROUP WAS COMPLETELY ELIMINATED LEAVING DEPUTY MAYOR EMILE MULLER WITH 37.43% OF THE VOTES FACING HIS ERSTWHILE POLITICAL PARTNER DR. KIENZLER, KIENZLER LED AN "APOLITICAL" GROUP AND WON 27.43% OF THE VOTES. MULLER IS IN A GOOD POSITION TO WIN ON THE SECOND ROUND.

IN COLMAR, 78 YEAR OLD MAYOR REY APPEARS TO BE IN A GOOD POSITION TO WIN THE SECOND ROUND SINCE HE POLLED 38% OF THE VOTES WELL AHEAD OF THE UNION DE LA GAUCHE AND AN INDEPENDENT GROUP. ALL THREE GROUPS REMAIN IN THE ELECTION.

LORRAINE - IN NANCY, THE SURPRISE IS THE GOOD SHOWING OF STATE SECRETARY CLAUDE COULAIS, WHO CAME IN WELL AHEAD OF THE LEFT AND OF INCUMBENT MAYOR MARTIN WHOSE GROUP PULLED ONLY 24% OF THE VOTE. MARTIN HAS STATED HE WILL NOT WITHDRAW UNDER ANY CIRCUMSTANCES, SO THE THREE GROUPS MAY FACE EACH OTHER AGAIN MAY 20 AT WHICH TIME COULAIS' LIST WILL PROBABLY BE ELECTED. SHOULD MARTIN WITHDRAW THIS WOULD IMPROVE COULAIS' CHANCES.

IN METZ, INCUMBENT MAYOR JEAN-MARIE RAUSCH WITH 43% OF THE VOTES IS IN A FAVORABLE POSITION AGAINST THE UNION DE LA GAUCHE LED BY PROFESSOR LAURAIN WHICH RECEIVED 35.80% OF THE VOTES. A LIST LED BY PIERRE BAUDOUIN WHICH MAY HAVE HAD THE TACIT SUPPORT OF THE RPR IS PROBABLY ELIMINATED AND THESE VOTES NORMALLY SHOULD FALL TO RAUSCH ON THE NEXT TOUR.

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FINALLY IN THIONVILLE, THE LEFT MISSED TAKING THE CITY HALL BY A HAIR. THE MAJORITY WILL NOW MOBILIZE ALL ITS STRENGTH TO SUPPORT INCUMBENT MAYOR DITSCH. IR DEPUTY FERRETTI, WHOSE LIST WAS ELIMINATED, HAS ANNOUNCED HE IS BACKING DITSCH. THE OUTCOME IS A TOSS-UP.ROMINE

NOTE BY OC/T: AMPERSAND(&) USED FOR PERCENT SIGN.

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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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Disposition Event:
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